

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 10/529347 25 MAR 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace the listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A heat exchange unit (4', 4'', 4'''), suitable for performing heat exchange between first and second fluids at different temperatures, comprising an exchange apparatus (6) provided with a tube bundle (8), crossed internally by said first fluid, containing means (10) of said second fluid, suitable for housing said exchange apparatus (6) in such a way that at least one portion of said tube bundle (8) is externally surrounded by said second fluid characterised in that said exchange apparatus (6) comprises connection means (9) structurally separate from said containing means (10) and to which one end of said tube bundle (8) is operatively connected.

2. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to claim 1, wherein said connection means (9) extend in a direction that is substantially parallel to said tube bundle (8).

3. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to claim 1, wherein said connection means (9) extend in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to said tube bundle (8).

4. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein said tube bundle (8) comprises at least one inlet opening (16) of the first fluid into the tube bundle (8) and at least one outlet opening (20) of the first fluid from the tube bundle, said inlet opening (16) and said outlet opening (20) being arranged in correspondence with said connection means (9).

5. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein said exchange apparatus (6) comprises shaking means (51) of said

tube bundle (8), said shaking means (51) being arranged at said connection means (9).

6. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to ~~any of the previous~~ claims claim 1, wherein said heat exchange apparatus (6) comprises a collection tank (26) arranged at the end of the tube bundle (8) operatively connected to the connection means (9).

7. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to claim 6, wherein said collection tank (26) comprises a box-shaped structure that is fluid tight relative to said second fluid.

8. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to claims 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein said collection tank (26) encloses said connection means (9).

9. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to ~~any of the previous~~ claims claim 1, wherein said heat exchange apparatus (6) rests on said containing means (10).

10. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to ~~any of the previous~~ claims claim 1, comprising separating means (52, 54), interposed between said connection means (9) of the tube bundle (8) and said containing means (10) suited to guaranteeing a fluid seal between said connection means (9) and said containing means (10).

11. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to claim 10, wherein said separating means (52, 54) comprise a separating plate (54) at least partially crossed by said tube bundle (8).

12. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to claim 11, wherein said separation plate (54) is solidly fixed to said collection tank (26).

13. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to claim 10, ~~11 or 12~~, wherein said separating means (52, 54) comprise a separation frame (52).

14. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to claim 13, wherein said separation frame (52) is integrally fixed to said collection tank (26).

15. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~, wherein said separating frame ~~(52)~~ is adapted to being connected to a cooling circuit.

16. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to ~~any of the previous~~ ~~claims~~ claim 1, wherein said exchange apparatus ~~(6)~~ comprises hooking means ~~(46)~~, adapted to allowing the handling of said exchange apparatus ~~(6)~~, said hooking means ~~(46)~~ being arranged at the end of the tube bundle ~~(8)~~ operatively connected to the connection means ~~(9)~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to claim 16, wherein said hooking means ~~(46)~~ comprise at least one eyebolt ~~(47)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to ~~any of the previous~~ ~~claims~~ claim 1, wherein said tube bundle ~~(8)~~ extends as a coil along a prevalent direction Z.

19. (Currently Amended) The heat exchange unit according to claim 18, wherein in relation to a plane perpendicular to said prevalent direction Z, said tube bundle ~~(8)~~ extends at least in part along a broken line which forms a series of alternate protruding and receding angles.

20. (Currently Amended) A steam production plant comprising a heat exchange unit ~~(4', 4'', 4''')~~ according to claim 1.